

Message Text

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SUBJ: RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARY ON GERMAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION

REF: USBERLIN 0878

1. SUMMARY: APRIL 30 EDITION OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND CARRIES ON INSIDE FRONT PAGE TEXT OF COMMENTARY BROADCAST BY MOSCOW RADION STATION "PEACE AND PROGRESS" EVENING APRIL 27 ON PLANS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF GERMAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION (GNF). IN OUR JUDGEMENT COMMENTARY IS RELATIVELY LOW-KEY AND RESTRAINED, AS THESE THINGS GO. YET IT PLAINLY SETS FORTH SOVIET OPPOSITION TO LOCATION IN WEST BERLIN OF WHAT IS LABELLED AS FURTHER "STATE OFFICE" OF FRG. END SUMMARY.

2. MOSCOW COMMENTARY BEGINS WITH REFERENCE TO GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ' REPEATED CLAIM, EVEN IN FACE OF BONN DENIALS, THAT CHANCELLOR FAVORS BERLIN AS SITE FOR GNF.

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YET IS QUICKLY PASSES OVER OVER PUBLICIZED SCHUET-SCHMIDT

DIFFERENCES AND FOCUSES ON WHAT IS PERCEIVED AS ESSENCE OF ISSUE: PLANS FOR "LODGING" FURTHER FEDERAL GERMAN INSTITUTION IN WEST BERLIN. VERY USE OF TITLE "GERMAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION" IS IN ITSELF AN AFFRONT TO GDR, AND DESIGNS OF SCHUETZ AND "HIS FRIENDS IN THE CDU/CSU" AMOUNT TO NO LESS THAN FOREIGN POLICY PROVOCATION. THERE IS NO DOUBT, COMMENTARY FLATLY ASSERTS, THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF GNF--AN FRG INSTITUTION--IN WEST BERLIN WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH QA. THIS PROSPECTIVE "SELF-WILLED" VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT IS PUT INTO BROADER INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT AS NATIONAL SPIN-OFF OF CAMPAIGN BEING UNDERTAKEN BY "REACTIONARY CIRCLES OF THE US AND THE FRG" AGAINST LEASENING OF TENSIONS.

3. COMMENTARY THEN PROCEEDS TO EXPOUND OF BASIC SOVIET AND GDR POSITION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF FRG OFFICES IN WEST BERLIN. "UNILATERAL" LODGING OF SUCH INSTITUTIONS, IT DECLARES, DISTURBS SITUATION PREVAILING IN AREA AND IS CONTRADICTORY TO MEANING OF QA PROVISIONS ON ACTIVITIES OF FRG "STATE OFFICES" IN CITY. SUCH ACTIONS HAVE NO PRACTICAL PURPOSE AND CLEARLY AFFECT INTERESTS OF SOVIET UNION AS WELL AS OF GDR. THEY HARDLY REPRESENT PATH TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, THE MORE SO WHEN THEY ARE UNDERTAKEN AGAINST CLEARLY-EXPRESSED POSITION OF OTHER INTERESTED STATES. COMMENTARY NOTES THAT ATTEMPTS MADE IN RECENT PAST TO DRAW WEST BERLIN INTO EFFECTIVE AREA OF FRG STATE POWER HAVE LED TO UNNECESSARY COMPLICATIONS AND FRICTION THAT HAVE BROUGHT NOTHING BUT HARM TO WEST BERLIN AND ITS INHABITANTS.

4. IN PARTIN WORD, COMMENTARY STRESSES THAT QA HAS SIGNIFICANCE FAR BEYOND CONFINES OF WEST BERLIN AND THAT IT THEREFORE LIES CLEARLY IN INTEREST OF ALL SIDES TO TREAT AGREEMENT WITH GREATEST CARE AND TO AVOID FRICTION AND CONFLICT IN ITS INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION. WITH SUCH CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND OBSERVERS IN FRG AND ELSEWHERE HAVE MAINTAINED--CORRECTLY, COMMENTARY IMPLIES-- THAT SEAT OF GNF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD BE IN FRG AND NOT IN WEST BERLIN. LOCATION IN WEST BERLIN WOULD BE STEP FOR WHICH INITIATORS (SCHUETZ AND CDU/CSU ARE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED) WOULD HAVE TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY.

5. COMMENT: AS WE SEE IT, THIS IS COMPARATIVELY RESTRAINED SOVIET COMMENTARY ON SUBJECT. IT GIVES STRAIGHTFORWARD EXPOSITION OF WELL-KNOWN SOVIET

POSITION ON FEDERAL OFFICES IN WEST BERLIN, AND THREAT
OF RETALIATION IS NO MORE THAN VEILED. NEVERTHELESS,
SOVIETS HAVE NOW CLEARLY PUT ON PUBLIC RECORD--IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR APPROACH TO ALLIES REPORTED
REFTEL--BOTH THEIR VIEW THAT PROPOSED GNF WOULD BE
FRG STATE OFFICE AND THEIR FIRM OPPOSITION TO ITS
LOCATION IN WEST BERLIN. WE ALSO NOTE THAT
CUSTOMARY SOVIET REFERENCE IN COMMENTARIES SUCH AS
THIS TO ACTIVITIES OF "REACTIONARY CIRCLES" SPECIFICALLY
MENTIONS US AS WELL AS FRG. END COMMENT. DAVIS

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